(d) and (e) A proposal to withdraw the Textile Committee cess is under consideration of the Government, with a view to rationalise the tax and cess burden on the Indian textile industry to improve its competitiveness in the global markets in the changed scenario.

Import of wool

†1645. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of demand and supply of wool in the country;

(b) whether wool is also imported from foreign countries; and

(c) if so, the value and quantity of wool imported during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA):

(a) The demand for wool is more than what is produced in the country and therefore, imports are resorted to.

(b) and (c) Yes, the quantity and value of wool imported during the last three years are as under:-

Year	Quantity (in million kg.)	Value (Rs. In crore)
2002-03	73.92	801.83
2003-04	84.61	870.61
2004-05	82.47	825.95

(Source: DGCIS, Kolkata)

Role of NIFT in increasing exports

1646. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether NIFT has been of help in increasing exports of textiles and garments from India;

(b) the details of the contribution of NIFT to the sector; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.